



Dear Westford Residents,

August 2010



Jodi Ross
Town Manager
978-692-5500

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

The Westford Council on Aging cordially invites you to attend our Grand Reopening on Sunday, September 19, 2010 from 1:00 to 3:00PM

*Cameron Senior Center
20 Pleasant Street
Route 225
Westford, MA*

Refreshments will be served

*RSVP by
September 9, 2010
978-692-5523*

*Special Town Meeting is
October 18, 2010*

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Visit
www.westfordma.gov
for current news and
information.

Even though we are in the midst of summer (enjoying the endless days of beautiful weather), our town employees and officials have been hard at work accomplishing many objectives.

After tremendous effort, including substantial financial analysis, development of new procedures, and assistance and cooperation from both state officials, and officials at Lowell General Hospital, our Westford Fire Department has implemented Advanced Life Support service. Specifically this means we have begun providing you with paramedic level service by our Westford ambulance department, during the daytime shift, which will increase to all shifts over the next couple of years. In the past, when paramedic level service was needed, the patient needed to wait for that level of assistance from our ALS provider, which delayed higher-level service by several minutes. We are on our way to providing the highest level of emergency medical service possible, short of hospital emergency room care, during medical emergencies. Congratulations to Fire Chief Richard Rochon and his extraordinary staff for undertaking this enormous project to provide better service to our residents when they need it most.

After much effort, the town and The Roudenbush Community Center, Inc. agreed upon terms of a lease to operate in town-owned buildings. The lease is a 5 year lease, with an option for a 5 year renewal, subject to review and negotiations. Roudenbush has committed to pay the town \$30,000 annually in lease payments, an additional \$30,000 annually for maintenance of our buildings, and another \$30,000 annually for town-approved capital improvements to our buildings. In addition, Roudenbush will reimburse the town for snow removal, trash removal, water, sewer, and other services the town provides. The lease is available for viewing on our website. Congratulations to both the town and Roudenbush officials for negotiating a lease that is satisfactory to both parties. A special thanks to all who were involved in this process.

The Town Hall construction project is proceeding on schedule. The outside paint colors were recently finalized, and the town employees are beginning the process of packing to relocate into the building in October. Stay tuned for more information on our move, including a grand opening celebration when construction is completed. We are very anxious to be once again all located in the same facility. *(Continued on Page 2)*



Dear Westford Residents,

Continued from Page 1

The Westford Newcomer's Club generously presented the Coalition for Non-Violence a check for \$1000 to help with the various measures the Coalition is attempting to assist those affected by domestic violence. Thank you to all members of the Newcomer's Club for supporting this very important cause.

Town Meeting has been called for Monday night, October 18th, 2010. The warrant is presently being drafted, and it looks like this will be another interesting and important meeting. Please mark your calendars to join us while we conduct the town's business.

It will be my two year anniversary next week as your town manager. As I stated during my interviews with the Board of Selectmen, I am relocating into Westford soon. I have sold my Westborough home and am building a home in town. I filed the appropriate disclosures with the selectmen at their last meeting, and am recusing myself from the permitting process while my builder seeks approval for the construction of my new home. I am anxiously awaiting becoming a true "Westfordian" and being able to cast my own vote at town meeting!

Please enjoy the rest of this beautiful summer season.

Sincerely,



Police Department News

The Westford Police Department, under the command of Chief Tom McEnaney, conducted a very successful Child Safety Day on June 27. There was a car seat checkpoint and a bicycle rodeo. Officers Hyder, O'Donnell, Peladeau, and Sgt Proia assisted 67 children in learning the rules of the road and how to keep themselves safe while riding their bicycles. 42 helmets were given to kids that arrived with improper fitting or no helmet at all. The helmets were donated by AAA of Merrimac Valley.

The kids went through a mock town donated by AAA of Merrimac Valley and the Lowell Police Dept. RJ Bradleys and Eastern Mountain Sports bike technicians were on hand to do free tune ups on each child's bike. Costco, CVS, and several other vendors donated water and snacks for the kids. Kimball's Farm donated backpacks for each child who went through the program.

The Westford Police Association and Westford Superior Officers Association sponsored a new bicycle registration program. Children that went through the Safety Day program had their bike registered in the new system. They were given a numbered sticker to affix to the bike. Now if anything ever happens to the bike we can track it through this system and get the bike back to its rightful owner.

The Westford Police Association donated two bicycles to the event. At the registration table each child was given a chance for the bike of their choice. They were also given chances to win helmets and other safety gear donated by local vendors.

Retired officer Ray Peachy, Littleton Officers Bussiere and Fernandez along with Kym Craven and Rick Bailey of Public Safety Strategies Inc. assisted in conducting the car seat checkpoint. In all 13 car seats were checked and six new seats issued.

The Masons were also on hand with MYCHIP (Masonic Youth Child Identification Program). MYCHIP has identified more than 275,000 children since its inception in 1988, and it continues to assist families today. Thirty-Two children took advantage of this program during the Safety Day.

Chief McEnaney is proud of his officers and their commitment to providing safety training to the children of Westford, "Officer Hyder and Officer Croteau were devoted to making this day happen." He also appreciated the strong turnout and support of the community. Chief McEnaney is dedicated to organizing another Safety Day in the spring. We will also be conducting a car seat checkpoint this fall after the town hall opens.





Highway Department News

Whew! Has it been hot enough for you? The Westford Highway Departments' weather station recorded 21 days of temperatures reaching 90 degrees or above for the month of July!

Throughout this extreme weather, the Highway Crews have been out in full force prepping roadways for resurfacing with bituminous concrete, microsurfacing and oil and stone treatments. A total of 8 roads were completed with some of these processes in July.

Microsurfacing is a fast, economical method for providing a wearing surface to new or existing pavement. Microsurfacing is the "modern" pavement maintenance approach, made of fine graded aggregates and asphalt emulsion. Some features of microsurfacing include: Prevents deterioration caused by UV lights, provides a water tight surface, user friendly to bikes, skateboards and walkers, and it has a 6 to 9 year life span. It's considered by experts to be a non-polluting asphaltic product that improves skid resistance.

Additionally, 10 drainage jobs were completed in July, including several culvert replacements around Town.

Sincere appreciation goes to Kevin and Kosta for keeping the Fleet going during these extreme temperatures.

The Highway Department wishes health, happiness and safety to all for the remainder of the summer. Enjoy!



Drainage pipe replacement on North Main Street



Eastern Equine Encephalitis

Eastern Encephalitis (EEE) is a rare but serious disease caused by a virus that can sometimes be fatal. The virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. In Massachusetts, the virus is most often identified in mosquitoes found in and around freshwater, hardwood swamps. EEE virus infects birds, often with no evidence of illness in the bird. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite infected birds. Although humans and several other types of mammals, particularly horses and llamas, can become infected, they do not spread disease. More information about different types of mosquitoes that can spread the virus can be found on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph.

If you reduce your exposure to adult mosquitoes, you reduce the potential for infection. Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) determines whether a particular county or area is at higher risk for human exposure. This is monitored by testing mosquito pools that are situated across the state. As of the end of July no pools have tested positive in our town, but the Health Department continues to recommend a proactive approach and encourages everyone to take the following preventative steps to minimize exposures.

How to prevent mosquitoes:

- Mosquitoes need still water to develop. Look around outside your house for containers and other things that might collect water and turn them over, regularly empty them, or dispose of them.
- Cover recycling bins and trash containers, flatten or punch holes in cans and containers
- Dispose of, or cover old tires.
- Frequently change water in birdbath and pet dishes. Stagnant water attracts mosquitoes.
- Stock ornamental pools with fish.
- Keep buckets, barrels, tubs, toys, and coolers turned upside down or covered.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
- Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated.

How to avoid mosquito bites:

- Check and repair all window and door screens for holes or cracks
- Avoid areas of high mosquito concentrations during dusk and dawn
- Use a repellent containing DEET or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to the instructions given on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age. Avoid concentrations above 10-15% for children and concentrations above 30-35 % for adults. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Cream, lotion or stick formula is the best.
- When you are outdoors, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and socks especially with children when playing outdoors. Use netting to cover a baby's carriage or playpen. This may be difficult to do when the weather is hot, but it will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.



Pesticide Spraying for Mosquitoes in Westford

Here in Westford, the town participates in the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project. This organization will provide spraying of your private property at no cost to you. You can request service by calling (508) 393-3055 or by applying for service on their website at <http://www.cmmcp.org>. Their website provides information on services, what pesticides they use, virus information, testing information and what areas of town have already been sprayed. You can also request to have your property not be sprayed in case an abutting neighbor decides

What is the Town's Pesticide Policy for spraying town owned properties?

- The Town of Westford does not allow applications of pesticides on town owned properties, except when the Board of Health deems the situation a Public Health Emergency in consultation with MDPH.
- Please contact the Westford Health Department at 978-692-5509 for a copy of the Westford Pesticide Use Policy. The fee is \$10.00. For a free copy of the policy please see the Westford Health Department website at www.westfordma.gov/boh.
- More information on choosing and using repellents safely is included in the MDPH Fact Sheet on Mosquito Repellents that can be viewed online at www.mass.gov/dph. If you can't go online, contact the MDPH at (617) 983-6800 for a hard copy.

Recreational Camp Inspections

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that all recreational, day, and overnight camps for children must be inspected and licensed by the local board of health in the city or town where the camp is located.

The primary purpose of the regulations and inspection is to ensure that the camp provides an appropriate environment to protect the health, safety, and well being of the campers. The regulations also establish minimum sanitary and housing standards to protect the children at camp.

At the Health Department, we are mandated by state law to inspect all camps. Within the inspections we review camp policies, ensure structures and equipment are safe and that there are adequate sanitary facilities. We review that background checks were done on all staff and volunteers, and that there will be sufficient supervision of campers. We review all camp records of campers and staff to evaluate whether immunization records and physicals are up to date. Additionally we ensure that all camps operating in Westford have appropriate plans in case of medical emergencies, natural and other physical disasters, injury and have a fire preventions plans.

The current licensed and inspected Recreational Camps for Children located in Westford are:

1. One Stop Fun –Powers Rd.
2. The Camp at Nashoba Valley-Powers Rd.
3. Westford Swim and Tennis Club Camp –Littleton, Rd.

Currently in the process of being licensed as a Recreational Camp for Children is:

- Camp Gan Israel Nashoba Valley



If your child is attending a camp, ask if they are licensed by the Board of Health!

J. V. Fletcher Library News

The J. V. Fletcher Library ended a BANNER year June 30! Circulation was the HIGHEST ever, with the most program attendees, daily visitors and website hits ever recorded! Reflecting the statewide trend of ever-increasing annual public library usage – check out the numbers below:

- 1 fine-free Library, open to ALL
- 4 Friends-funded phases of Library beautification
- 18 Museum Passes to area museums
- 54 databases for languages, travel, consumer product ratings, medical articles and genealogical research
- 292 library-sponsored programs offered for all ages
- 309 days open per year
- 346 magazine and newspaper subscriptions
- 875 patron visits per day
- 1,000's of audiobooks to download to your laptop or MP3 player with OVERDRIVE
- 1,783 meeting room reservations by the community
- 1,968 cumulative attendees at the **Westford Job Seekers Network** to date
- 1,932 Summer Reading Program registrants
- 13,587 program attendees at library-sponsored events
- 15,069 registered borrowers
- 65,913 inter-library loans handled annually
- 59,928 hold requests
- 127,799 holdings (books and other materials)
- 270,501 library user visits per year
- 340,681 items circulated in FY10 (our highest circulation ever)
- 1,045,978 hits on the Library website